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Application Number	09/526,814
Filing Date	March 16, 2000
First Named Inventor	Michael B. Ball
Group Art Unit	2814
Examiner Name	N. Ha
Attorney Docket Number	2269-2987.4US (96-790.1)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner
Signature

Kathleen H.

Date
Considered

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¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.9 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

*See U.S. counterpart, U.S. Patent No. 5,612,575, previously cited by Applicant.